(a) whether Government are considering total review of the Constitution which is reportedly outdated to deal with the merging complex political scenario and containing challenges posed;

(b) if so, the details of the initiatives taken in this regard;

(c) the details of the timebound action plan conceived/proposed by Government for the purpose; and

(d) whether Government are considering to set up a National Commission for review of the Constitution and suggest appropriate changes, if so, the details of the moves proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (d) Government has not taken any decision in the matter so far.

Appointment of more Women Judges

1029. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of judges in various High Courts in the country, State-wise;

(b) out of them how many are women judges in each High Court;

(c) whether Government propose to appoint more women judges;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) A Statment is laid on the Table of the House. *(See* below).

(c) to (e) Appointment of Judges of High Courts are made in terms of Article 217 of the Constitution which does not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. The Government have, however, addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts from time to time requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women who are suitable for appointment as High Court Judges.

Statement

(As on 1.12.1998)

S. No.	Name of High Court	No of Judges	No of women Judges
1.	Allahabad	44	—
2.	Andhra pradesh	25	1
3.	Bombay	47	3
4.	Calcutta	31	1
5.	Delhi	25	1
6.	Gauhati	15	1
7.	Gujarat	30	1
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	11	—
10.	Karnataka	33	—
11.	Kerala	22	2
12.	Madhya Pradesh	26	1
13.	Madras	33	2
14.	Orissa	12	—
15.	Patna	29	1
16.	Punjab & Haryana	22	—
17.	Rajasthan	22	1
18.	Sikkim	1	—
		433	16

Barring of Criminals from Contesting Elections

1030. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal for barring the criminals from contesting in Parliamentary and Assembly elections is under the consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the proposal is likely to be finalised and implemented; and

(c) whether the proposed measure is likely to include the undertrials and those persons released on bail but not actually